Genea longipalpis Van der Wulp.

Myobia longipalpis Van der Wulp, Biologia, Dipt., II, 1890, 138.

A female identified as this by Townsend is in the National Museum. He placed it naturally under his *Dejeaniopalpus*. It is from San Rafael, Vera Cruz, Mexico, Mar. 8 (Townsend). It has a slightly shorter proboscis than our female of *maculiventris*, but is probably the same species. It seems prudent to see the male before definitely dropping the name into synonymy. Both of these specimens have a large, triangular median black spot on both second and third segment, the apex of the spot reaching to the front edge of the segment.

Obviously the genus *Dejeaniopalpus*, type *texensis*, is a synonym of *Genea*.

Brauer and Bergenstamm seem to be in error (Zweifl. Kais. Mus., VI, 1893, 132) in making *Spathipalpus* Rondani (type *philippii* Rondani from Chile), a synonym of *Genea*. The Chilean species has the frontals extending upon the face, according to the description, and the palpi are spatulate. It is a black species, and may be a Dejeaniine with hairy first vein.

On the Identity of the Genus Ernestia R. D. (Tachinidae, Dipt.).*

By C. Howard Curran, Ottawa, Ontario.

In his "Revision of the Nearctic Species of the Tachinid Genus *Ernestia* R. D." (Can. Ent., Sept. 1921, p. 199 etc.), Dr. J. D. Tothill pointed out certain characters separating the various groups which he included under this genus. The chief characters of the subgenus *Meriana*, as outlined by him in the revision, were the absence of discal macrochaetae on the second abdominal segment and hairy parafacials. Neither of these characters can be regarded as of generic value in most cases, and they were not so considered by Tothill. Perhaps the most significant statement, from a generic standpoint, is the indication

* Contribution from the Division of Systematic Entomology, Entomological Branch, Dept. of Agric., Ottawa.

of primitive posterior (inner of Tothill) claspers, as these possess no "keel" in *Meriana*. The type species of *Ernestia* (*E. rudis* Fallen) has the same type of genitalia, while the majority of the species enumerated by Tothill have the posterior claspers more or less strongly keel-shaped.

A study of species treated by Tothill proves that there are two very easily separated genera which may be distinguished as follows:

The genus *Ernestia ss.* is devoid of a group of fine hairs on the metanotal slopes immediately below the inner base of the squamae, and the posterior forceps are normally simple.

The genus *Mericia* R. D. (the species not included above) possess a group of fine hairs on the metanotal slopes immediately below the inner base of the squamae; posterior genital forceps usually carinate.

It is quite evident that the species placed in the sub-genus *Meriana* really belong to the genus *Ernestia*, while practically all those considered under the subgenus *Ernestia* belong to the genus *Mericia* as limited above.

The genus *Ernestia* therefore includes, as far as I am acquainted with them, the following species, *rudis* Fall. (type), *radicum* Mg., *flavicornis* Br., *chalybea* Coq.? and *nigrocornea* Coq.?

Mericia includes those species listed by Tothill on p. 203, of the *Canadian Entomologist* for September, 1921, under the subgenus *Ernestia*.

The genus *Meriana* is therefore a synonym of *Ernestia*. *Metaphyto* is evidently not separable from *Ernestia* and should be considered a synonym. By the use of the character indicated as separating *Mericia* and *Ernestia* we are able to definitely isolate the former from other allied genera, this undoubtedly being a step in the right direction in the classification of this difficult group.

While dealing with the subject, I wish to point out that the genus *Bombyliomyia* has the lower squamae long pilose above, a character I have not noted in other genera.